

Charles Koch admitted as much in an interview last year. When asked what he hoped to get from his hundreds of millions of dollars in political donations, here is what he answered—and this is a direct quote: “I expect something in return.” Yes, he does.

This is not the American democracy our Founding Fathers established.

The Supreme Court’s disastrous *Citizens United* decision has constructed a political system that has effectively put our government up for sale to the highest bidder. Because of *Citizens United*, our country has no real restrictions on the money a billionaire or anyone else can spend to buy the government they want. This is proven day after day with the Kochs. They are in fat city. They have unlimited amounts of money.

I went to one of these minor billionaires a couple of years ago, and I said: You have wasted your money. It didn’t help. You know what he said to me? He said: It doesn’t matter. I have it to waste. I guess the Kochs, with their \$100 billion—the man I met was just a billionaire, but they have even more to waste.

As a country we must reject the Koch brothers’ efforts to buy our democracy. We must work to rid the system of this dark money. We must address the issue of campaign finance and the unrestrained spending that is squeezing the American people out of their own government.

It is time we revive our constituents’ faith in the electoral system and let them know their voices are being heard and not just the Koch brothers’ voices.

Mr. President, will the Chair announce the business of the day.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2016

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 2848, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2848) to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes.

Pending:

McConnell (for Inhofe) amendment No. 4979, in the nature of a substitute.

Inhofe amendment No. 4980 (to amendment No. 4979), to make a technical correction.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority whip.

CONTINUING RESOLUTION

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, shortly the two leaders of this Chamber will be headed to the White House to update the President on discussions over keeping the government funded and up and

running past the end of the fiscal year, which is September 30. I want to briefly remind our colleagues how we ended up in this situation, why it is we are talking about a short-term continuing resolution from this point until December 9 and then revisiting the issue beyond that by December 9.

It is pretty clear everybody understands that a CR, as we call it around here—a continuing resolution—is really a stop-gap spending bill to fund the government, and it is the result of our Democratic colleagues filibustering the regular appropriations process. As the Presiding Officer knows, there are 12 appropriations bills that need to be considered by each of the appropriations subcommittees, then they are voted on by the committee itself, and then they come to the floor of the U.S. Senate, where we take them up in a transparent and orderly sort of way—each of those 12 bills—or at least that is the plan. We brought up bill after bill to do just exactly that this year, and this is the first time since 2009 that all 12 bills have been voted out of the committee and are now available for us to act upon.

That is the way the legislative process is supposed to work and that is the way that is transparent to the American people so they know exactly what we are doing, and they can call us and say: We don’t like that or they can call us and say: Well, I do like that. The point is, this is far superior to short-term continuing resolutions or the dreaded omnibus bill that we had to deal with last year; again, as a result of our inability to get the appropriations process to work.

This year, our Democratic colleagues stopped the regular orderly process of passing appropriations bills. One might ask: For what purpose? Well, it is pretty obvious their purpose was to make sure they had maximum leverage in order to force the Federal Government to spend more money—not just on national security matters, which would enjoy a lot of support on this side of the aisle, but to use any increase in national security spending to leverage more nondefense discretionary spending, breaking the caps that have been agreed upon in a bipartisan way previously.

So this is the reason we find ourselves in this distasteful and unpleasant position—Democratic obstruction. Now we are forced to deal with a short-term stopgap bill, which is nobody’s first solution. It is not my second or third, but it is something we must deal with, and we will.

JUSTICE AGAINST SPONSORS OF TERRORISM ACT

Mr. President, separately, yesterday our country observed the 15th anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and at the Pentagon and in a field in Pennsylvania, where brave patriots brought down this plane rather than allow it to come to the Capitol and create or cause other damage and perhaps loss of life. We know that about 3,000 Americans died

just in the attack on the World Trade Center.

All of us remember where we were on that day. I certainly do. The only other time in my life that I can tie back to a historic and sad event like that was when John F. Kennedy was killed when I was in junior high school. I remember exactly where I was when President Kennedy was assassinated. So it is that I remember exactly where I was and what I was doing when those planes hit the World Trade Center and those 3,000 Americans lost their lives.

It is important for us to send a message that evil shall not prevail. Americans from all backgrounds came together in a beautiful display of patriotism and fraternity following that terrible day of September 11, 2001. Of course, following those attacks, the United States took military and diplomatic action to bring justice not only to those families but to demonstrate the consequences of attacking the American homeland, but the truth is, the victims and their families still don’t have the ability to get justice from the people—including the governments—who helped fund those terrorist attacks. That is where the bill, the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act, comes into play because if this legislation is signed by the President, it will become the law of the land. It will amend the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act in a way that will allow Americans to sue State sponsors of terrorism when the terrorist attack occurs on American soil. Believe it or not, under current law, that can’t happen. So this law is one that is designed to make sure these families who are still grieving and still don’t have closure will be able to seek justice in a court of law against the people who killed their loved ones on September 11.

This is a bipartisan bill. My primary cosponsor in the Senate is Senator SCHUMER from New York. As a matter of fact, this is so bipartisan as to be nonpartisan. It passed the U.S. Senate by unanimous consent. Any individual Senator who wanted to, could stand up and say: I object, and it wouldn’t have happened, but nobody did. So by unanimous consent, we passed this legislation in the U.S. Senate. Last Friday, in the U.S. House of Representatives, it passed without any objection. It passed unanimously. I know it is pretty hard for people to actually believe anything gets passed unanimously here in Washington in this polarized political environment, but this bill was passed unanimously.

Now, just after the anniversary of these tragic attacks, the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act is headed to the President’s desk, perhaps as early as today. This legislation will give victims of terror attacks and their families the opportunity to seek justice in a court of law from those who fund and facilitate terrorist attacks.

I want to make clear that contrary to some of the reports, this legislation